

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 9, 10, 15-17, and 23-26 are allowed and for indicating that claims 6, 13, 14, and 20-22 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 5-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 27 have been canceled by this reply, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 6, 9, 15, and 23 are independent. The remaining claims are, directly or indirectly, dependent on claims 6, 9, 15, or 23.

Claim Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 6, 13, 14, and 20-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and is now allowable. Accordingly, claims 1-4 have been canceled by this reply. Further, dependent claims 7, 8, 11-14 and 18-22 now depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 6. No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 11, 19, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,740,709 to Leighton *et al.* (hereinafter "Leighton") in view of WO 98/55849 ("Green"). Claims 1, 2, and 27 have been canceled by this reply; thus, this rejection is now moot with respect to the canceled claims. Claims 11 and 19 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 6. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton in view of US Patent No. 4,902,137 ("Krieg") and Green, and further in view of US Patent No. 4,885,676 ("Zweighaft"). Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled by this reply; thus this rejection is now moot.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton in view of Krieg and Green, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,508,521 ("Kraft"). Claims 7 and 8 depend from now allowable independent claim 6. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton in view of Krieg and Green and further in view of US Patent No. 4,659,218 ("Lasa"). Claim 12 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 6. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leighton in view of Krieg and Green, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,315,955 ("Klein"). Claim 18 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 6. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17198/004001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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